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INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION IO-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 AF-10 ARA-15 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-07
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 HA-05 SY-05 SYE-00
DCT-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /125 W
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INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY
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USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN PRIORITY
USINT HAVANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SUVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 03201

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, RQ
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24 CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO

REF: USUN 3181

1. THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF 24 ON DECOLONIZATION (C-24) COMMENCED PLANNED TWO-DAY ANNUAL DEBATE ON PUERTO RICO ON AUGUST 18 BY HEARING TWELVE PETITIONERS IN MORNING AND AFTERNOON MEETINGS. STATEMENTS WERE MADE BY: OLAGUIBEET A. LOPEZ-PACHECO, GRAND MASTER, GRAN ORIENTE NACIONAL DE PUERTO RICO; LUIS E. AGRAIT, PROELA; JACINTO RIVERA PEREZ, PRESIDENT, PARTIDO NACIONALISTA DE PUERTO RICO; LILLIAN MARTINEZ, PRESIDENT, ASOCIACION DE CONSULTORES EN PROGRAMAS FEDERALES; NELSON W. CANALS AND RAFAEL CANCEL MIRANDA, COMITE UNITARIO CONTRA LA REPRESION Y POR LA DEFENSA DE LOS PRESOS POLITICOS (CUCRE); FRANCISCO HERNANDEZ VARGAS, PUERTORRIQUENOS CONTRA ESTADIDAD; LUIS RIVERA, CHRISTIAN PEACE CONFERENCE; ANGEL TAPIA FLORES, PUERTO RICAN BAR ASSOCIATION; LOLITA LEBRON; JUAN MARI BRAS, SECGEN OF THE PUERTO RICAN SOCIALIST PARTY; AND ROBERT COHEN, PUERTO RICO JUSTICE WATCH COMMITTEE.

2. MOST PETITIONERS WERE INDEPENDENCE ACTIVISTS AND DESCRIBED U.S.-PUERTO RICAN RELATIONSHIP AS COLONIAL, WERE HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE U.S. ROLE IN PUERTO RICO, ACCUSED THE USG AND PUERTO RICAN AUTHORITIES OF POLITICAL REPRESSION AGAINST THE PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT, CRITICIZED U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN PUERTO RICO IN PARTICULAR THE USE OF VIEQUES ISLAND FOR MILITARY TARGET BOMBING, AND CALLED FOR VIGOROUS ACTIVITY BY THE C-24 IN FAVOR OF THE DECOLONIZATION OF PUERTO RICO. SEVERAL INSISTED THAT FALN MEMBERS UNDER ARREST FOR TERRORIST BOMBINGS IN THE U.S. BE CONSIDERED AS PRISONERS OF WAR, OPPOSED THE HISTORY OF DRAFTING OF PUERTO RICANS INTO THE U.S. MILITARY, AND DEMANDED THE U.S. PRESENT A CONCRETE PLAN FOR THE DECOLONIZATION OF PUERTO RICO. OTHERS ENTERED INTO LONG LEGAL ANALYSES OF THE PUERTO RICAN SITUATION. CONSIDERABLE CRITICAL ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO THE PLATFORMS OF THE TWO MAJOR U.S. POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE POSITIONS OF THEIR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ON PUERTO RICO. ACTIVE ROLE IN FAVOR OF PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE BY CONGRESSMAN RON DELLUMS WAS PRAISED IN SEVERAL STATEMENTS. MARI BRAS IN PARTICULAR FAVORED DRAFT RESOLUTION RECENTLY INTRODUCED BY DELLUMS IN U.S. CONGRESS TO EFFECT "TRANSFER OF POWERS" BY U.S. TO PUERTO RICO.

3. DECORUM OF THE HEARINGS WAS BROKEN FREQUENTLY BY ENTHUSIASTIC OUTB[illegible] OR APPLAUSE FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERIES. C-24 C[illegible]AN ABDULAH (T&T) MADE SOME PRO FORMA ATTEMPTS TO CALL THE AUDIENCE TO ORDER, BUT THIS HAD LITTLE EFFECT IN QUELLING SUCH BEHAVIOR, PARTICULARLY BEFORE AND AFTER STATEMENTS BY INDEPENDENTISTA FOLK HEROES LEBRON AND CANCEL MIRANDA AND PSP LEADER MARI BRAS.

4. USUN PUT OUT PRESS RELEASE AUG. 18 REITERATING U.S. POLICY ON PUERTO RICO. TEXT, AS PROVIDED BY DEPT (INCLUDING CHANGES DISCUSSED STRASSER/LEE TELCONS) IS BEING SENT TO INFO POSTS VIA USICA WIRELESS FILE.

5. HEARINGS OF PETITIONERS FOLLOWED BY GENERAL DEBATE (LAST INFO IS THAT ONLY CUBA IS ON THE SPEAKERS' LIST) WILL CONTINUE AUG. 19. USUN WILL POUCH PROVISIONAL VERBATIM TRANSCRIPTS OF HEARINGS AS AVAILABLE TO IO/UNP (LEE).

MCHENRY

TO FALN 77276

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AUG 20 1980
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